



God's Will and Our Lives

EXPERIENCING

GOD

Henry and Richard Blackaby

LOOKING TO GOD

Session 2

Clabon Bogan – c.bogan2@gmail.com -- 609.230.5809



GOD CENTERED LIVING

Augustine once wrote that the **main problem with humanity** is our disordered loves, misdirected desires and disoriented passions.

Psalm 51:5 says we are conceived in sin and born in iniquity, thus our brokenness exists on a cellular level.

These **unhinged** passions, desires, and loves will remain deranged until we become new creations through Christ.

Carnal devotional dysfunctions will cause us to orient everything towards the self – taking the good gifts God has given us and primarily use them to self-promote, self-protect, and self-provide



GOD CENTERED LIVING

We seem so obsessed with self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-fulfillment, even when we struggle, we turn to self-help.

Fundamentally, we have removed God from the center of our lives and replaced Him with the false god named Self.

Even after 69 years in Babylonian captivity, the returning remnant were self-absorbed.

- Haggai 1:10 "Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And **I have called for a drought** on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."



GOD CENTERED LIVING

When **God speaks**, where do you receive His voice:

EGO



**HEAD
VOICE**

SOUL



HEART VOICE

With God, we must move from hearing with our heads and **listen with our hearts**



REVIEW FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ Paul was serving God, doing what he thought would please Him and God made the first move in the encounter.
- ❑ Is it possible to do so many things we think are God-centered, that we go against the activities of God
- ❑ The timing of God always has eternal dimensions with it, and while we linger in our decision, some may be lost.
- ❑ A God-centered query is: What does God want to do through me?
- ❑ According to the Scriptures, what God initiates, He also completes (Isa 14)



REVIEW FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ *When our focus is on God, i.e., when we are "looking to God," we must pay attention to what He says about Himself.*
 - *If what you're thinking makes sense to you it may possibly not be from God (Isa. 55:8-9)*
- ❑ *Often God makes us dependent on another believer so that we will be inter-dependent and not independent*
- ❑ *Human Reasoning from a believer is just as humanistic as it is from an atheist or agnostic (Evangelical Christian Humanism)*
- ❑ *Many times God will ask us to do the last thing that we failed at in our own strength*



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Since to “experience” something is to undergo a particular instance of personal encounter with a person or thing, **KNOWING** God only comes through experience as He reveals Himself to us through our experiences with Him.”

The question is: How can I have this kind of **PERSONAL** relationship with God in order to become more **INTIMATE** with Him?

And although the **MEANING** of “Intimacy” varies from relationship to relationship, and within a given relationship, it has more to do with **SHARED** moments than sexual interactions.

UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Intimacy is linked with feelings of **CLOSENESS, SAFETY, TRUST,** and **TRANSPARENCY** among partners in a collaborative relationship.

It is both the **ABILITY** and the **CHOICE** to be close, loving and **VULNERABLE** with yourself and requires **IDENTITY** development.

Intimacy can also be identified as knowing someone in **DEPTH**, knowing many different aspects of a person or knowing how they would **RESPOND** in different situations, because of the many experiences you've **SHARED** with them.





UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Colloquially some describe it with the homonymous "into me see".

The main forms of intimacy are EMOTIONAL intimacy, INTELLECTUAL intimacy (*familiarity with another's culture*), PHYSICAL intimacy and SPIRITUAL intimacy, which is shared by people of religious or philosophic groups.

Intimacy in a relationship cannot be a thing of the PAST as evidenced by God's approach to the first parents; even after their DISOBEDIENCE.



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Healthy relationships continue through **CHOICE**, implying a continual re-commitment to and perpetual **RENEWAL** of the relationship, and a constant **FRESHNESS**.

Consequently intimacy is also something that must be **RE-CREATED** within the relationship.

A **PRIMARY** and essential element of intimacy is **PROXIMITY** or **PRESENCE**

Experiencing God requires us **ADJUSTING** our nearness to God to a position of **IMMEDIACY** of attendance.



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

Notice in the Bible whenever someone was out of God's will they went in a direction **OPPOSITE** of His purpose — out of the **WAY**.

Therefore it goes without saying that whenever God's people want to insure **SUCCESS** and or **VICTORY**, they made sure that God's presence was there with them.

This explains why God demanded that he be in the midst of His people during their wilderness wandering.



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

The **ARK** of the **COVENANT** was carried into the Jordan River by the priests, and it **CAUSED** the waters to **PART** so Israel could cross on dry ground (Joshua 3:13).

During the conquest of the land of Canaan, the ark was carried at the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:4-11); and later it was deposited at God's dwelling place with His people (**TABERNACLE @ SHILOH** (Joshua 18:1).

It is obvious that whenever God is present with His people in the project that He has **CALLED** them, His presence will bring victory (II Sam. 11:11; II Chron 20:15)

UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

1. *Examine each of these Biblical accounts and indicate which are God-centered or self-centered with an S or G*

Gen. 2:16-17 S or G

Gen. 3:17 S or G

Gen. 39 S or G

Num. 13:31 S or G

Num. 14:8-9 S or G

II Chron. 14:11 S or G

II Chron. 16:1-3 S or G

2. *What was God about to do when He asked Noah to build an ark? (Gen 6:5-14)*

3. *What was God about to do to Sodom and Gomorrah when He came to Abraham (Gen. 18:16-21; 19:13)?*



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY

4. *According to Heb. 3:7-19, what was the reason some of the children of Israel was denied entrance into the Promised Land?*

5. *Who takes the initiative in our knowing and doing God's will? And why?*

- I DO and God waits for me to decide what I want to do and then helps me accomplish it.*

- GOD DOES and He invites me to join Him in what He is about to do.*

